

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15

ICA-11 /078 W

-----083533 121315Z /47

R 120200Z SEP 78

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1044

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SINGAPORE 4037

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PDIP, PEPR, CH, SN, VN

SUBJECT: VISIT OF CHINESE SENIOR VICE-PREMIER TENG HSIAO-PING TO
SINGAPORE CONFIRMED

1. RUMORED VISIT OF CHINESE SENIOR VICE-PREMIER TENG HSIAO-PING TO SINGAPORE WAS CONFIRMED IN FRONT-PAGE STORY IN SEPTEMBER 8 STRAITS TIMES. STORY QUOTED FOREIGN MINISTER RAJARATNAM AS SAYING THAT TENG MAY VISIT BEFORE END OF YEAR, POSSIBLY AFTER HIS EXPECTED VISIT TO MALAYSIA IN SECOND WEEK OF NOVEMBER.

2. MFA POLITICAL DIVISION DEPUTY DIRECTOR MUSHAHID ALI CONFIRMS THAT STORY IS ACCURATE. ALI TOLD EMBOFF THAT VISIT DETAILS ARE NOT YET FINALIZED AND ARE IN HANDS OF HIGHEST LEVELS OF MFA. ALI COMMENTED THAT TENG'S
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VISIT IS NOT SURPRISING, AS SINGAPORE PRIME MINISTER AND FOREIGN MINISTER HAVE BOTH PAID FRIENDLY VISITS TO CHINA (IN MAY 1976 AND MARCH 1975, RESPECTIVELY), AND CHINA IS NOW FOLLOWING A POLICY OF VISITS TO FRIENDLY COUNTRIES. CHINA PAYS MORE ATTENTION TO FRIENDLY ATTITUDE THAN TO FORMALITIES, HE ADDED.

3. ASKED IF TENG'S PROPOSED VISIT WOULD AFFECT
LIKELIHOOD OF VISIT FROM VIETNAMESE PRIME MINISTER
PHAM VAN DONG, ALI REPEATED THAT SINGAPORE'S DOOR
WAS OPEN SHOULD THE VIETNAMESE REQUEST A VISIT, BUT
THEY HAVE NOT DONE SO. HE ADDED THAT SINGAPORE HAS
DIPLOMATIC CONTACTS WITH VIETNAM (TRADE MISSIONS WITH
DIPLOMATIC STATUS HAVE BEEN AGREED TO), AND "THEY
KNOW WHERE TO CONTACT US."

4. STRAITS TIMES STORY ENDS WITH STATEMENT: "OF THE
ASEAN COUNTRIES, MALAYSIA, THAILAND AND THE
PHILIPPINES HAVE ALREADY NORMALIZED THEIR RELATIONS
WITH CHINA. SINGAPORE HAS STATED MANY TIMES THAT IT
WOULD WAIT UNTIL INDONESIA SET UP DIPLOMATIC TIES
WITH CHINA BEFORE IT MAKES THE MOVE."

5. COMMENT: TENG'S VISIT IS NOT LIKELY TO AFFECT
SINGAPORE'S POLICY OF WAITING FOR INDONESIA BEFORE
ESTABLISHING RELATIONS WITH CHINA. HOWEVER, DOMESTIC
REACTION TO VISIT MAY GIVE SINGAPORE GOVERNMENT ADVANCE
OPPORTUNITY TO TEST EFFECT ON DELICATE LOCAL ETHNIC
RELATIONS OF PEKING PRESENCE IN SINGAPORE.
KNEIP

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NNN

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